

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-13 were originally filed in the present application. These claims have been subjected to a restriction requirement.

Restriction Requirement

The Office has required restriction to one of the following groups of claims:

Group I: Claims 1-9, drawn to an absorbent tampon, classified in Class 604, subclass 385.17; and

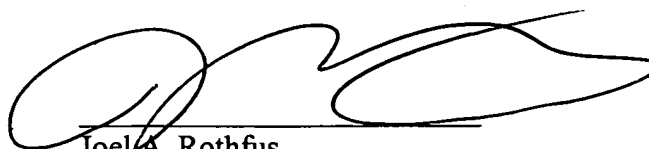
Group II: Claims 10-13, drawn to a method of increasing the absorbency of lyocell fibers, classified in Class 8, subclass 116.1.

The Office Action indicates that Groups I and II are unrelated. It argues that Group I relates to a "tampon which is mutually exclusive from invention II which is drawn to a method of increasing the absorbency of lyocell fibers." It indicates that Group II does not claim a method that is related to making a tampon nor does it claim a method that is related to using a tampon. Applicant hereby provisionally elects Group I, with traverse and respectfully requests reconsideration of the Restriction Requirement.

Applicant submits that the claims in the groups are related, and complete examination cannot be made of either group of claims without searching and considering the art in the other group's classification. Therefore, Applicant submits that it would be more efficient to search and examine both claim groupings together. That being the case, Applicant submits that it would be more burdensome upon him to have to prosecute two separate applications for the identified claims than it would be for the Patent Office to examine the two groups together. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is hereby respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully requests a timely Notice of Allowance in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a series of loops and a final horizontal stroke.

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